

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2583**  
**OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

1   **SEC. 8\_\_\_. DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE**  
2                                   **RUSSIAN FEDERATION.**

3           It is the sense of Congress that—

4                   (1) the Government of the Russian Federation  
5           should—

6                           (A) safeguard human rights, including  
7                   freedoms of speech, assembly, and association;  
8                   and

9                           (B) take all necessary steps to ensure that  
10           the upcoming parliamentary and presidential  
11           elections meet international electoral standards  
12           and are universal, free, equal, fair, secret,  
13           transparent, and accountable and to—

14                           (i) allow credible, independent elec-  
15                   toral observers, both domestic and inter-  
16                   national for both long-term and short-term  
17                   observation missions, unrestricted and  
18                   timely access to complete their work;

19                           (ii) take steps to ensure that the text  
20           and implementation of election law in the

1 Russian Federation is consistent with  
2 international electoral standards;

3 (iii) provide access to the ballot for all  
4 political parties and candidates by remov-  
5 ing unreasonable barriers to political party  
6 registration and to candidate acceptance  
7 on electoral ballots and by ensuring fair,  
8 impartial, and timely consideration of all  
9 political party registration applications;  
10 and

11 (iv) undertake an impartial, inde-  
12 pendent investigation of the procedures  
13 used to deny the party registration applica-  
14 tion of the Party of the People's Freedom  
15 (PARNAS) to ensure that the procedures  
16 used were consistent with international  
17 standards; and

18 (2) the President and the Secretary of State  
19 should make respect for democracy, the rule of law,  
20 and human rights a priority in the ongoing relation-  
21 ship and dialogue between the Governments of the  
22 United States and the Russian Federation, in par-  
23 ticular in light of the upcoming parliamentary and  
24 presidential elections in Russia.

